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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Jorge OSELLA (Argentina)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda items 103 and 104 appear in the reports of the Committee (A/47/830 and A/47/835, respectively).

2. The Fifth Committee further considered the items at its 59th to 62nd, and 66th meetings, on 29 to 31 March and 21 April 1993. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/C.5/47/88) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/47/7/Add.15), and a letter from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences transmitting the views of that Committee (A/C.5/47/92).

3. The comments and observations made in the course of the Committee's further consideration of these items are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/47/SR.59-62 and 66).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

4. At the 66th meeting, on 21 April 1993, the Vice-Chairman, following informal consultations, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution (A/C.5/47/L.36).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.36, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 10).

6. Statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Austria, Denmark (on behalf of the members of the European Community), Algeria, Hungary, the United States of America, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Brazil, Australia, Egypt, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Canada, Tunisia, the Netherlands, China, Sri Lanka, Ghana and Zimbabwe (see A/C.5/47/SR.66).

7. At the 66th meeting, the Vice-Chairman submitted a draft decision under agenda item 103, Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, which had been elaborated following informal consultations. The draft decision read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 45/249 on conditions of service, and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly, which, inter alia, reaffirmed that the conditions of service of officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly shall be separate and distinct from those of officials of the Secretariat;

"Noting that the staff rules and regulations are not therefore necessarily applicable to these officials;

"Requests the Secretary-General to provide appropriate background information to be considered at its forty-eighth session."

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman without a vote (see para. 11).

9. Statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Brazil, Algeria, Austria, China, the United States of America, Nigeria, Portugal, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Kenya (see A/C.5/47/SR.66).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 42/211 of 21 December 1987, 43/213 of 21 December 1988, 44/200 and 44/201 of 21 December 1989, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, 45/199, 45/248, 45/253 and 45/254 of

21 December 1990, 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 46/232 of 2 March 1992, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 47/199 of 22 December 1992 and 47/212 and 47/213 of 23 December 1992,

Reaffirming the functions and powers of the General Assembly in considering and approving the budgets of the Organization, and, in this context, its role with regard to the structure of the Secretariat and the creation, suppression and redeployment of posts financed from the regular budget of the Organization,

Reaffirming also the responsibilities of the Secretary-General as Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization,

Recalling the Financial Regulations and Rules and the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,

Reaffirming the priorities set out in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as revised and approved under the terms of its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992,

Noting that New York is the Headquarters and a centre of the United Nations and that there are currently three additional United Nations centres at Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 47/212, 1/

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, 2/

Having further considered the letter of the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, 3/

Taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

I

1. Approves a revised appropriation of 2,467,458,200 United States dollars for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the restructuring;

2. Also approves, subject to the provisions contained in sections I, II and III of the present resolution, the proposals for transfers of resources among sections, as set out in the annex to the present resolution, and concurs with the recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

1/ A/C.5/47/88.

2/ A/47/7/Add.15.

3/ A/C.5/47/92.

3. Further approves the proposals of the Secretary-General with regard to high-level posts, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Decides to defer action on the proposal of the Secretary-General to abolish the four high-level posts in the Department of Administration and Management and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to reconsider his proposals relating to these posts with a view to ensuring that the most senior officials of that Department have a degree of authority that is equivalent to the most senior officials in other areas of the United Nations, taking into account the observations and recommendation of the Advisory Committee and the views expressed by Member States;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to pursue as a matter of urgency his efforts to agree with the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on a prompt appointment to the post of Executive Director of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT at its present level;

(c) Decides to defer action on the proposal of the Secretary-General to abolish the post of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and requests him to reconsider his proposal and to report in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 on future secretariat support arrangements for the United Nations Environment Programme and Habitat, including the question of separate senior management arrangements for Habitat, taking into account the views and recommendations of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council and the views expressed by Member States;

II

4. Stresses again the need for a timely dialogue between Member States and the Secretary-General on the process of the restructuring of the Secretariat;

5. Emphasizes that the restructuring of the Secretariat should be carried out in accordance with the guidance given by the General Assembly, as well as by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation and the Financial Regulations and Rules;

6. Stresses the importance of effective coordination of the activities of the departments and units responsible for economic and social issues, and notes the intention of the Secretary-General to devote his personal attention to this task and to establish appropriate internal coordination mechanisms for this purpose, special attention being given to the promotion of greater coordination and complementarity in the respective activities of the United Nations, including Headquarters departments, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, in particular in support of the programmes on Africa and the least developed countries;

7. Reiterates the need for the full and effective implementation of all programmes and subprogrammes as set out in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, the revisions thereto, the programme budget and other relevant

mandates of the General Assembly, in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

8. Notes the indication by the Secretary-General that the further restructuring of the Secretariat in the economic and social sectors would entail the decentralization of activities to the field and to the regional commissions and stresses that his proposal relating to decentralization of activities to the field should be in accordance with resolution 47/199 and those relating to the regional commissions in accordance with the criteria agreed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council within their respective mandates and on the basis of clearly identified relative advantage;

9. Also notes that the modalities of the proposed integration of the Office for Project Services into the Department of Development Support and Management Services will first be considered by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and subsequently by the General Assembly in the light of a report of the Secretary-General on the work of the task force mentioned in paragraph 103 of his report, 1/ which will include the relevant financial aspects;

10. Invites the relevant intergovernmental bodies to report as soon as possible to the General Assembly, through the Committee on Conferences, on the overall implications of applying General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 to the venues of intergovernmental bodies whose secretariats are affected by the current restructuring;

11. Requests the Secretary-General, in the context of the current overall restructuring process and taking into account the need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization in accordance with the principles contained in resolution 46/232, to review the role of the United Nations headquarters, centres, regional commissions and in the field, in particular Vienna and Nairobi, with a view to improving the distribution of responsibilities among them, on the basis of their relative advantages;

12. Welcomes in this connection the intention of the Secretary-General, as expressed in paragraph 19 of his report, to consider the relocation of activities in order to provide a clearer purpose for each of the United Nations programmes and sharpen the substantive focus of each of the centres, and requests him to present, in accordance with the principles and guidelines contained in resolution 46/232, adequate proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 to reflect the status of Nairobi;

13. Also welcomes in this connection the intention of the Secretary-General, as expressed in paragraph 67 of his report, to identify, on the basis of the approaches underlying the current restructuring exercise, activities that would, in accordance with the principles and guidelines contained in resolution 46/232, benefit from a relocation to Vienna and requests him to present adequate proposals in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that any future proposals relating to major changes in the organization of the Secretariat include a timetable for their implementation and, to the extent possible, are submitted in the context of the biennial proposed programme budgets;

15. Reiterates in this context its request to the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 10 of resolution 47/212 to provide the Committee on Programme and Coordination and other concerned intergovernmental bodies with all relevant information to enable them to identify and analyse the programmatic aspects and consequences of the restructuring of the Secretariat in their areas of competence;

III

16. Endorses the commitment of the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the United Nations in international economic and social cooperation through, inter alia, the restructuring of the Secretariat;

17. Notes the commitment of the Secretary-General to ensure that the integration of activities resulting from his restructuring proposals, including the creation of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department of Development Support and Management Services will lead to improved programme delivery as well as economies of scale;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to provide for the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session detailed and clearly identifiable information on all costs and savings achieved during the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the first and second phases of the restructuring of the Secretariat;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General, in implementing the restructuring of the Secretariat and in preparing his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 on the basis, inter alia, of General Assembly resolution 47/213:

(a) To take fully into account the results of the intergovernmental review called for in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 47/212 and the implementation of the revisions to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 associated with the restructuring process;

(b) To provide adequate resources and to identify clearly units, at appropriate levels, for the implementation of all programmes and activities, including those involved in the current phase of restructuring, in particular the programmes on the development of Africa, the least developed countries, transnational corporations, science and technology for development and social development, the newly mandated activities on the protection of global climate and the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification, particularly in Africa;

(c) To strengthen the coordination of the activities on science and technology with the United Nations Development Programme for better management of the Fund for Science and Technology for Development;

(d) To ensure that all activities related to transnational corporations are kept integrated;

(e) To review the proposed activities of the new organizational entities in order to ensure that they meet the concerns expressed in paragraphs 9 and 24 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to reflect the outcome of this review in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, taking into account the fact that the presence, representation and functions of the United Nations in the field are defined in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

(f) To propose improvements in programme delivery and the termination of activities considered obsolete or redundant for the consideration of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in accordance with regulation 4.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

(g) To elaborate further his proposals with respect to the Department of Administration and Management and the Department of Public Information, taking fully into account the comments expressed in paragraph 33 of the report of the Advisory Committee and of the relevant General Assembly decisions, including resolution 47/202 C of 22 December 1992;

(h) To reflect all savings to be achieved and all additional costs to be incurred as a result of the restructuring, in accordance with the second paragraph of the introduction of the report of the Secretary-General and paragraphs 25 to 27 of the report of the Advisory Committee;

20. Notes that the resources allocated to the departments involved in the restructuring will be reviewed in the context of the established procedures for the preparation of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 with a view to ensuring effective programme delivery, taking into account the ongoing elaboration of workload standards and other management techniques as requested in section I of resolution 47/212;

21. Invites the Secretary-General, in the context of the implementation of the current phase of the restructuring of the Secretariat, to consider activities related to the economies in transition in accordance with the relevant mandates contained in General Assembly resolutions and the observations of the Advisory Committee as expressed in paragraph 9 of its report;

22. Also invites the Secretary-General to ensure, in the context of the search for improved efficiency, the rationalization of the working arrangements within each department of the Secretariat in order to ensure that resources are used in the most effective way and that the programme managers are fully responsible and accountable;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session under the agenda item on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations information on his efforts to improve the efficiency of the United Nations;

24. Reaffirms its request made in resolution 47/214, section V, that the Secretary-General establish a system of responsibility and accountability of programme managers and report on this to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

25. Concurs with the observations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraph 34 of its report and urges the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to strengthen and make more effective the planning, management and administrative support within and between the departments responsible for peace-keeping operations, including the Field Operations Division, and also within the Department for Humanitarian Affairs;

26. Also concurs with the observations of the Advisory Committee contained in paragraphs 35 and 36 of its report and reiterates that transfers of resources between sections of the programme budget should be made in accordance with financial regulation 4.5 and rule 104.4;

27. Notes the intention of the Secretary-General to study the possible establishment of a D-3 level and requests him to take fully into account the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee as contained in its report and, in that context, concurs with the specific observation contained in paragraph 48;

28. Endorses the view of the Committee on Conferences as contained in the letter from the Chairman of the Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee; 3/

29. Invites the Secretary-General, particularly with regard to the publication policy of the Organization, to ensure the provision of appropriate support to the Committee on Conferences through, inter alia, close coordination among the departments and units concerned.

ANNEX

Restructuring of the Secretariat

Revised appropriation broken down by section

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		Appropriation approved under resolution 47/220 A	Revised appropriation	Increase or (decrease) over current appropri-ation
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	34 621.7	34 290.9	(330.8)
2.	Peace-keeping operations	109 008.4	109 008.4	-
3.	Political and Security Council affairs	4 001.2	4 001.2	-
4.	Political and General Assembly affairs and secretariat services	3 261.7	2 971.1	(290.6)
5.	Disarmament	4 577.5	3 964.1	(613.4)
6.	Special political questions, regional cooperation, trusteeship and decolonization	2 851.5	2 851.5	-
7.	Elimination of apartheid	2 130.9	1 861.3	(269.6)
8.	International Court of Justice	18 485.0	18 485.0	-
9.	Legal activities	5 342.6	5 342.6	-
10.	Law of the sea and ocean affairs	2 312.9	2 022.3	(290.6)
11.	Development and international economic cooperation	14 499.1	11 360.2	(3 138.9)
12.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	40 146.2	40 146.2	-
13.	Department of International Economic and Social Affairs	13 737.6	13 177.4	(560.2)
14.	Department of Technical Cooperation for Development	6 786.3	6 786.3	-

		Appropriation approved under resolution 47/220 A	Revised appropriation	Increase or (decrease) over current appropri-ation
15.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	92 514.0	96 927.2	4 413.2
16.	International Trade Centre	18 489.8	18 489.8	-
17.	United Nations Environment Programme	12 832.1	12 332.3	(499.8)
18.	Centre for Science and Technology for Development	1 402.7	1 133.1	(269.6)
19.	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	12 029.9	12 029.9	-
20.	United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations	3 748.3	3 478.7	(269.6)
21.	Social development and humanitarian affairs	14 700.3	10 492.9	(4 207.4)
22.	International drug control	13 383.8	13 383.8	-
23.	Economic Commission for Africa	72 049.3	72 049.3	-
24.	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	55 301.9	55 301.9	-
25.	Economic Commission for Europe	42 509.8	42 509.8	-
26.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	67 350.7	67 350.7	-
27.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	45 333.9	45 333.9	-
28.	Human rights	25 007.5	25 158.6	151.1
29.	Protection of and assistance to refugees	63 611.7	63 611.7	-
30.	Disaster relief operations	2 010.6	2 010.6	-
31.	Public information	103 006.0	111 842.0	8 836.0
32.	Conference services	106 441.4	106 150.8	(290.6)
33.	Administration and management	103 110.2	103 110.2	-

		Appropriation approved under resolution 47/220 A	Revised appropriation	Increase or (decrease) over current appropri-ation
34.	Special expenses	47 661.7	47 661.7	-
35.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	98 850.2	98 850.2	-
36.	Staff assessment	402 034.5	401 130.6	(903.9)
37.	A. Department of Political Affairs	41 011.0	41 399.8	388.8
	B. Outer space affairs	2 074.3	2 367.1	292.8
38.	Legal activities	24 155.6	24 155.6	-
39.	A. Policy coordination and sustainable development	-	16 966.5	16 966.5
	B. Economic and social information and policy analysis	-	16 664.7	16 664.7
	C. Development support and management services	-	10 843.5	10 843.5
	D. Policy-making organs	-	2 002.1	2 002.1
	E. Department of Economic and Social Development	82 116.6	41 587.0	(40 529.6)
40.	Department of Humanitarian Affairs	9 870.7	10 216.4	345.7
41.	Administration and management	643 588.1	634 567.3	(9 020.8)
	Total	2 468 039.2	2 467 458.2	(581.0)

* * *

11. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/249 of 21 December 1990 on conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly, which, inter alia, reaffirmed that the conditions of service of officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly shall be separate and distinct from those of officials of the Secretariat,

Noting that the Staff Rules and Regulations are not therefore necessarily applicable to these officials,

Requests the Secretary-General to provide appropriate background information to be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.